



The Rye Golf Club • Rye, New York

UPDATE

**GOLF &
SWIM
NEWS**

february 2004

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Letter From the General Manager

Dear Members:

I would like to take this opportunity to update club members about some of the policy changes that will be implemented in 2004 and provide an overview of last season.

You should know that the staff and Commission have worked hard to ensure the continued success of the club. We have instituted a master plan for the grounds and infrastructures, created a two-step strategy to attain a balanced budget and started a cashless club environment to name just a few new initiatives.

Input from members was a valuable tool in the decision making process and is

always encouraged. We as staff want to create an extraordinary club experience and a club you are proud to call your own. We are here to facilitate your visions and ideas, however, it takes effort on your part as well. From fixing a divot or ball mark to throwing your trash in a can, we must all work together to achieve the goal.

Once again we would like to thank you and hope that you take full advantage of the club and all it has to offer. If you have any questions or comments, please call me at 835-3200 or email me at syandrsevich@ryeny.gov

Sincerely,
Scott Yandrsevich

RGC Pool: Tops in the County!

Our pool is considered tops in the county and it takes hard work to keep it in such great condition. The pools filtration systems and water chemistry are essential to the operation of a clean and bacteria free pool. Some of the larger improvement projects to be completed this year will be the deck restoration, the marbleizing of both pools and completion of the first phase of the pool parking area.

We are always looking at new and more efficient ways to operate and increase availability of facilities to members. Just as adjustments in staff and policies need to be addressed by us, you as members must also do your part to obey the rules that are put in place for your safety and the safety of others.

The pool is a place to have fun, enjoy the facilities and respect the comfort of other members. Pool users that are not toilet trained must wear a swim diaper and bathing suit when in the pool. Smoking, food and diaper changing are restricted to designated areas only. For the safety of your children and others, an adult must accompany children under 12 at all times.

More chairs and umbrellas will be provided for your comfort and new programs are being developed for your entertainment. Pool lockers will be available for seasonal rental or daily use. Seasonal renters will be assigned a locker and a lock.



**Please Consult
the Rulebook for
the Complete and
Updated Rules**



New Golf Pro Has Vision

Rules are in place to allow every member to enjoy a better club experience. Rules will be strictly enforced. A complete set of updated rules are available for your review in the member services office, golf shop and pool office. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

The golf shop has been renovated and the new Head Golf Professional, Michael Rapisarda, is introducing a selection of name brand apparel and equipment to your golf shop.

Along with the new look and atmosphere expect other changes as well - equipment storage with enhanced services, lessons utilizing the swing solutions golf video analyzer, added clinics, new tournament ideas and extensive demo programs.

One change that results with the renovation of the shop is that the starter will now be located at the first tee (see Pro for check in procedures).

Regarding golf car fees, last season a full car was \$30 and a single person car

or 1/2 car was \$25. This year the 1/2 car rate will be reduced to \$15 but there still may only be two cars per foursome. We will also be instituting a new evening return policy on cars to allow members more time to complete their round. Remember: no cell phone on the course; proper attire must be worn at all times (no jeans, sweat pants, swim suits, tee shirts or underwear type clothing) and no metal spikes. Pace of play has always been a hot issue. A simple rule of thumb to follow is to keep up with the group in front of you and the rest will take care of itself.

Please stop in to meet Mike, try out a new set of clubs and let him tell you first hand about other new happenings.



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Keeping the Grounds Green and Healthy

The grounds and infrastructures are living things. The grass on the golf course is not the same as your back yard and thus needs special care. For instance, the grass on the greens is cut to a height of .135, which is between 1/8 and 9/64 of an inch compared to the common lawn at 2 inches. This creates stress on the grass that requires special attention. The grass needs food, air and rest to live and care if it gets sick or a disease, just like a child. This care is accomplished with water, fertilizers, plant protectants and ongoing maintenance such as aerifying and topdressing. Frost and wet conditions are hazardous to the turf as well. If the grass plant is damaged or dies there is a long recovery period. Please understand that if you are delayed on any given day, the minor inconvenience is far outweighed by the long-term damage to the course. If wet conditions rules are in effect please obey them to minimize course harm. Golf car and pull carts also cause damage and the spread of disease; therefore they need to be kept away from tees and greens. Pull carts are to be kept to the outside of the greenside bunkers and off the tees. One of the major causes

of crab grass and bare spots around the greens is due to pull carts. Believe it or not, the pounds of pressure per square inch a pull cart exerts on the grass is more than our big tractors due to the width of the tires and the weight displacement. Replacing divots and repairing ball marks on the green are also essential to healthy turf. If you are not sure of the proper way to fix a ball mark please ask the Superintendent or Pro to ensure the proper technique. Please rake bunkers so the next person will not have to hit out of a footprint or ball mark and leave the rake on the inside edge of the bunker when complete. These rules exist to keep the course in the best shape possible and to preserve the same playing conditions throughout the day. Course Superintendent, Chip Lafferty, and his staff diligently work on course maintenance while at the same time trying not to inconvenience members' ability to play. However we have a responsibility to you and every member to do what is best for the course and provide a quality product now and in the future.



Whitby: The Club's Castle

Whitby Castle is also undergoing some changes. Recently Restaurant Associates hired a new Executive Chef and beginning in February the Castle will have a new Manager. After three years, Chris Carey has given his notice and taken a job in Manhattan. Viewing the change as an opportunity, I will work

more closely with the new Manager and Chef to create several special club events at the Castle, including family BBQs on the terrace, holiday socials and an annual year end recognition dinner. We hope you will participate in these exciting new club events.

Show your RGC membership card at Whitby Castle and receive 10% off your purchases.

RGC Goes Cashless

Our new club management computer software enables us to become a cashless club environment, just like other private clubs. The cashless club is both for security reasons and to better serve members. Every member will be required to have a new photo taken and will receive a new membership card. Photos will be taken in member services, and for your convenience, at the golf shop and pool office. Your old card may be disposed of.

Golf car, pull cart, tournament, greens, guest, swim lesson and pool merchandise fees that were paid for in the golf shop or pool booth last season will now be signed for.

Coming soon you will also be able to sign for merchandise and services in the golf shop. The snack bar and the Castle will probably be added to the system in the near future. Each member will place a credit card on file in the Member Services Office or when you complete your application. Each time you sign for products or services you will receive a receipt and your credit card will be automatically charged. Your credit card information will be secured on the system and only available to member services and finance personnel. You will also be able to restrict charging privileges to family members as you see fit.

Achieving a Balanced Budget

All of the buildings at the club, including Whitby Castle, need constant maintenance and upgrades. Our staff members are doing many of these projects. Preventative maintenance goes a long way, but we must always have a contingency plan. Much time and planning have gone into the creation of a master plan and a five-year budget projection. The new budget and dues structure for 2004 was the topic of discussion for many hours. This is the first step to a balanced budget with operating, projects and contingencies

being addressed collectively. Much of the budget increase was dictated to us from the City due to increased health care and benefits for both retired and active full-time employees; the remaining monies are going back into the club to complete overdue or deferred maintenance issues. 2004 is a catch up year, however with proper planning in the future you will see both the budget and the dues level out. Rye Golf Club is and will continue to be a great value while offering country club conditions and services.





What's Done... What's Left to Do

The following is an overview of some completed and anticipated projects. Your membership dues are hard at work even though some of the most important projects are the ones that aren't seen.

Completed in 2003

- ✓ Replacement of all the maintenance equipment to ensure up to date technology and better productivity. This equipment is now leased vs. owned, creating an annual savings in the equipment budget.
- ✓ Installation of over 12,000 feet of drainage pipe throughout the club resulting in less run off and better turf growing environment.
- ✓ Resurfacing the pool deck, phase one.
- ✓ Pruning and removal of trees and under brush.
- ✓ Planting of over 90 white pines throughout the property.
- ✓ Renovation of 3rd tee complex.
- ✓ Drainage in the pool parking area to prep for the natural resurfacing of the lot.
- ✓ Creation of a Club Master Plan, which has been instituted.
- ✓ Installation of new awnings at pool and snack bar.
- ✓ Implementation of a new fertilizer and pesticide application program.
- ✓ Over-seeding on fairways and greens.
- ✓ Contoured fairways and established first cut of rough.
- ✓ Installation of new practice green by 10th tee, expansion of existing practice area that included bunker, larger green, chipping and driving net area.
- ✓ Aerification program including water injection cultivation which will reduce disruption of playing surface.
- ✓ Painting of administration, pool and golf shop buildings.
- ✓ Replacing golf cars with a new company and lease terms that save over fifteen thousand dollars annually.
- ✓ Hiring of a new Head Golf Professional.
- ✓ Completing 5-year budget and projection plan.

Upcoming projects for 2004:

- ☐ Renovate golf shop.
- ☐ Move starter to first tee.
- ☐ Negotiate with Restaurant Associates about Whitby Castle operation.
- ☐ Installation of new club management software.
- ☐ Complete first phase of pool parking lot.
- ☐ Complete pool deck.
- ☐ Marbleize inside of both pools.
- ☐ Increase number of chairs and umbrellas at pool.
- ☐ Continue over-seeding, fertilizer and pesticide programs to ensure healthy turf.
- ☐ Renovate and relocate of the 16 tee complex.
- ☐ Relocate the teaching tee.
- ☐ Renovate the bunker and green complex (reshape bunkers, drainage and new sand) with little disruption to play.*
- ☐ Renovate tee complex (enlarge, level and sod) with little disruption to play.*
- ☐ Start installation of cart paths network.

* Amount to be completed is weather dependent

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 Bruce Boehmcke
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